

Mrs. Webb/Mrs. Tolin

8th Grade ELA

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“A Retrieved Reformation” Quarter 1 Persuasive Essay

A surprise ending is an unexpected twist at the end of a story that you did not predict. If you enjoy suspense and surprise endings, then I definitely suggest reading “A Retrieved Reformation” by O. Henry. “A Retrieved Reformation” is a short story about a safecracker, Jimmy Valentine, who quickly went back to his old devious ways of robbing from banks after he was released from prison. However, due to an alterative attack of love after meeting a woman named Annabel Adams, Jimmy reforms himself to become a better person and live a straight life as a shoe salesman named Ralph Spencer. The story has an unexpected ending at the end of the story when the detective, Ben Price, unobtrusively shows up in Jimmy’s new town. I highly recommend “A Retrieved Reformation” written by O. Henry because it is suspenseful story that leads up to a surprise ending, and it leaves the reader feeling a sense of hope that people can truly change.

One reason that I recommend “A Retrieved Reformation” is because it is a suspenseful story that leads to a surprise ending. The author, O. Henry, provides subtle hints throughout the story that keeps readers on the edge of their seats wondering what will happen next. For example, the detective, Ben Price, shows up in the town of Elmore after searching for Jimmy for over a year, and the reader feels a sense of suspense wondering if Jimmy will be caught and arrested. However, the author surprises us with an unexpected ending at the end of the story when Ben Price finally finds and confronts Jimmy. In addition, I also recommend “A Retrieved Reformation” because it is an inspirational story that leaves the reader felling a sense of hope. In

the story, Jimmy Valentine changes his ways and leaves his devious safecracking life in the past to become a reformed citizen. Also, Ben Price, the detective who most readers would expect to be the one to bring retribution to Valentine, ends up being the one who chooses to let Valentine live free in his reformed life. This is truly inspiring because it leaves the reader believing that anyone, no matter how horrible their past has been, can make a positive change in their life.

For these reasons and more, I strongly recommend “A Retrieved Reformation” to anyone who has not read it yet. Readers will definitely enjoy the suspense that leads up to the surprise ending at the end of the story. In addition, readers will be left with a sense of hope that will certainly inspire the belief that people can truly change for the better. In fact, “A Retrieved Reformation” will even leave some readers empowered to seek a reformation themselves.